

# A JOHNSONIAN NEWS LETTER

Vol. I No. 3      Address communications to J. L. Clifford      March, 1941  
Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Penna.

Your editor wishes to express his appreciation for the gratifying response to the first two numbers of the News Letter. Because of the press of teaching and other duties he has been unable to acknowledge personally each subscription and expression of interest. To those who have already generously made contributions to help pay for mimeographing and postage he is particularly grateful, as well as to those who have indicated their intention of doing so. These latter pledges will be welcome at any time. May the coming issues justify your support!

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The ACLS grant of \$30,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation for micro-filming of material in danger abroad is being used without delay through a subcommittee on selection of items (H. A. Kellar, G.W. Cottrell, Jr., and Percy W. Long.)

At present only unprinted MSS in England, Scotland, and Wales are being photographed. All BM MSS were removed by early December, but largely remain available for filming. When heavy air attacks are resumed, field work in small places will probably ensue. As you receive this letter, six cameras of Microfilm, Inc. will be constantly at work.

Send in your suggestions either for immediate or future filming. Lists of desiderata should include, with the title, both the library catalogue number and a few words describing the contents.

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W. S. Lewis has donated to London a mobile kitchen unit, named in honor of Horace Walpole.

In our last issue the announcement was made of the destruction of the Gough Square Johnson House in London. Fortunately, as now seems certain, the damage is not irreparable. In a letter to Walter Graham (Ill.) L.F. Powell writes from Oxford: "The house was not hit by a bomb, but was burnt by a barrel of oil blown on to it from a neighboring printing works.... I am afraid the attic in which the Dictionary was, in part, compiled has been burnt out. Most of the contents of the house have been saved."

In another letter Powell adds that "The custodians behaved with great courage: they stuck to the house and removed the valuables." Lord Harmsworth, he says, intends to put a temporary roof on the building, in an attempt to save what is left.

R.D. Havens sends us a letter from J. R. Sutherland, editor of the RES, dated Jan. 21, in which he says: "Some months ago I sent a letter to a number of American scholars in which I assured them that though life was not as tranquil over here as it had been eighteen months ago, we were determined to carry on THE REVIEW OF ENGLISH STUDIES, and that for my part I would do my best to see that it maintained its old standards of scholarship, and, if possible, its circulation.... When my letter went out, the raids on London were only beginning, but nothing that has happened since has made it seem less right and proper that the Review should continue. Sutherland asks that as many of us as possible become subscribers, to insure the continuance of the good

work. In closing he adds: "You will be interested to hear that the British Museum has remained open all through the last few dangerous months, and that most of the old familiar faces are to be seen there every day."

All our readers, we know, will be distressed to hear of the recent death of Mrs. L. F. Powell in Oxford. Never again will tea at 228 Woodstock Rd. be quite the same, and many eighteenth century enthusiasts will be the sadder.

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#### AUCTION SALES

A small brochure about the late A. Edward Newton, issued as a preliminary to the sale of his great collection April 16-18, May 14-16, and in the autumn, has been made available by the Parke-Bernet Galleries. The complete catalogues (in three parts at \$2.00 per vol.) will begin to appear soon. Since it is the avowed intention of E. Swift Newton, the son, to make these catalogues the "greatest" ever produced, scholars will await their release with eagerness.

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#### REQUESTS

The MLA Group on Bibliographical Evidence has undertaken a project that should be of increasing use to 18th century scholars. They have undertaken to make a checklist of proof sheets, manuscripts that have been sent to the press, and copies of printed material containing authors' corrections. Allen Hazen of the Yale Library is in charge, and will welcome information about the location of such materials, both those in institutions and in private hands. Plans for making the list available will be announced at the group meeting in Indianapolis next December

George Sherburn (Harvard) is at work, as many know, on an edition of Pope's letters. He presently hopes to circularize American libraries in order to discover whether they have one or more autograph originals of Pope. If anyone happens to know of autograph collectors who own Pope letters, it would be a great kindness if he would send such information to him. It is never safe to assume that single letters, even in the hands of known collectors, may not somehow be overlooked. The number of hitherto uncollected or unpublished Pope letters will run in the new edition into the hundreds.

William Templeman (Ill.) is working on unpublished correspondence by and to William Gilpin. It involves such names as Samuel Rogers, William Mason, Thomas Gisborne, Mary Hartley, Mrs. Delany, Sir George Beaumont, Cadell & Davies, Thomas Gray, Horace Walpole, Paul Sandby, Richard Warner, and James Plumptre. He would be glad to hear of any MS letters, or obscurely printed letters, that were written by Gilpin or any of the above-named, or that mention Gilpin.

William C. Powell (U. of Pa.) is writing a critical biography of Christopher Anstey, and will be glad to hear of any MSS or other material relating to him.

Richard D. Altick (18 Race Ave. Lancaster, Pa.) is interested in any unpublished references to Richard Owen Cambridge. Altick possesses microfilms of all of Cambridge's letters in the B. M., most of them written to Charles Yorke or Lord Hardwicke, and full of local gossip about Walpole and the Johnsonian circle. He will gladly supply information from these letters, or copies upon application.



A.M. Mizener (Yale) and R. C. Boys (Mich.) have almost completed a first-line index of poetical miscellanies. A few volumes which they have been unable to find in this country are listed below. The numbers in parentheses are those used in Arthur Case's bibliography.

The Agreeable Medley, or Universal Entertainer. 1748 (457)

A Banquet of the Muses, or The Miscellany of Miscellanies. 1746 (453)

The Choice: Being a Collection of Two Hundred and Fifty Celebrated Songs. 2nd ed. 1732 (353, 1b)

The Compleat Academy of Complements 1729 (235b)

Ein Kurzer Versuch. 1738 (418)

England's Witty and Ingenious Jester. 17th ed. 1718 (473q)

Female Inconstancy Displayed. 1732 (376), 1732 2nd ed. (376b)

Foundling Hospital for Wit. No. 2. 1744. (440, 2b)

The Lark. 1742. (427b)

Letters in Prose and Verse, To the Celebrated Polly Peachum. 1728. 2nd ed. (352b)

Lusus Westmonasteriensis. 1740. (360c)

The Merry-Thought. Part 2. 2nd ed. 1731. (369, 2b) Part 1. 3rd ed. 1731 (369, 1c)

Miscellanies. The Fourth Volume. Consisting of Verses by Dr. Swift, Dr. Arbuthnot, etc. 1747 (334, 5a)

Miscellanies in Prose and Verse. 4th ed. Dublin. 1721 (321d)

Motets, Madrigals, and Other Pieces. 1746. (454)

Mughouse-Diversion. 2nd Ed. 1717 (296b)

New Academy of Complements. 12th ed. Dublin. 1743 (2851), 13th ed. 1748 (285m)

Pancharis Queen of Love. 1721 (322)

Poetical Miscellanies [Steele's Miscellany]. Dublin. 1726 (279c)

Poems by the Earls of Roscommon and Dorset. Vol. II. 1739 (323, 2d)

Poems on Several Occasions. Collected from the Spectators. 1741 (434)

Poetical Works of the Earls of Rochester, Roscommon, and Dorset. [Vol. I], 1739. (323, 1d)

Select Collection of Modern Poems. By the Most Eminent Hands. 1744 (445)

The Theatre of Wit, or A Banquet of the Muses. 1746 (453b), 1746 (453c)

Tunbriggialia; or the Tunbridge Miscellany. 1722. (324)

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#### AN 18TH CENTURY LUNCHEON?

A number of comments have been received about the proposed 18th century luncheon at Indianapolis next December. One correspondent has pointed out that committee meetings and graduate school luncheons usually preempt all the available noon hours, and suggests a late afternoon get-together. Other correspondents, however, seem eager for a luncheon, and J. R. Moore (Indiana) writes: "I understand that such meetings were pretty generally abandoned by groups at Boston and Cambridge, as being too hard to arrange; but if they are given up, the chance of meeting other people in the same field is also largely given up. I am very much in favor of undertaking such a luncheon this year, and I shall be glad to attend to arrangements in Indianapolis..."

Shall we accept this generous offer and attempt to schedule a luncheon on the first day of the meetings?

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Margery Bailey (Stanford) writes enthusiastically of R. Kirk's suggestion that from time to time we list recent accessions of MSS material, but also asks: "Why limit it to MSS? Pamphlets and other editable material are equally good for graduate and professional exercise (obscure plays specifically)."

## MANUSCRIPTS

One of the most interesting eighteenth century correspondences now in the United States is the Elizabeth Montagu collection in the Huntington Library. It contains more than 2000 letters of the Queen of the Blue Stockings and a large number addressed to her. Several scholars have been working with the collection, including Katherine Hornbeak (Smith) and W. Powell Jones (Western Reserve). The latter, chairman of our group, has kindly agreed to describe the condition of the papers, and to answer any queries which our readers may make. His offer should be welcomed because only a beginning has been made in cataloguing the collection, and the letters are accessible only to readers on the spot, and then only after much effort.

Katherine Hornbeak writes about a large mass of MSS dealing with Sir Joseph Banks, now at the Sutro Library in San Francisco. The collection consists of twenty-six bundles of papers, letters, pamphlets, etc., chiefly concerned with historical events of the period. To students of the mid-century this may be a valuable mine of information.

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## A GROUP PROJECT?

E.R. Wasserman (Ill.) feels strongly that our News Letter should sponsor a group research project. The Chaucer and Spenser sections have proved that effective work can be done in collaboration. Why not the 18th century? Many suggestions of possible projects have been made. Wasserman would like to see us compile a check-list of the authorship of unsigned articles in periodicals. If each scholar would report whatever attribution he discovers, together with the evidence, in time a valuable compilation might be published.

A. D. McKillop (Rice) writes "My recent visits to various libraries have brought it home to me that we sadly need a supplement to Crane and Kaye. Holdings have increased and bibliographical information has accumulated." Possibly our group might aid R. S. Crane (Chicago) in this needed revision.

B. H. Bronson (U. of Cal.) would like to see an index of all editions of D'Urfey's Pills.

These are only a few of the possible outlets for our group energy. Will you write in your reactions, or further suggestions?

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## CENSORSHIP DURING ANOTHER WAR

It is told that Madame D'Arblay, who had been living in France early in the nineteenth century, was back in England at the time of her father's last illness. She asked him the meaning of the new names she saw everywhere: "Trafalgar House", "Trafalgar Place", etc. Doctor Burney told her that they referred to Lord Nelson's great victory. "What victory was it, dear Papa?" replied Mme. D'Arblay. "And when was the battle fought?" He told her; and she protested that in France the event had never been mentioned in conversation.

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Comments culled from returned postcards:

"Mrs. B--- remarks that no human being, except a professor writing to professors, would suggest as an 'I prefer' the choice between 50¢ and \$1".

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"You know very well that a 50¢ piece doesn't mail very well. Here's my dollar."

Your editor pleads not guilty; either sum is gratefully received.